

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, paragraph beginning at line 6:

This apparatus is useful to ~~distil~~ distill essential oils and hydrosols such as rose water, ajowan water from fresh and dried plant material like leaves, flowers, roots and rhizomes by water distillation, water and steam distillations and as an optional, steam distillation can also be performed at atmospheric pressure as well as slightly higher and lower than atmospheric pressure. This unit can be heated on brick-clay furnace with small agro-waste, LPG cooking gas, electrically heated stove or kerosene/diesel burner etc. and requires minimum attention during handling. Since the apparatus is made of stainless steel and glass, the essential oil distilled is of better quality than the oil distilled by glass Clevenger type apparatus used in the laboratory.

Page 3, paragraph beginning at line 7:

The major drawbacks of the unit are that it can not ~~distil~~ distill the plant material by Steam distillation. Some parts of the aromatic herbs such as cedar wood, sandalwood are preferably distilled by Steam distillation method to obtain better recoveries and quality. Also these units can not ~~distil~~ distill the plant material neither at reduced pressure nor at higher pressure since the system is opened to the atmospheric pressure and can not be operated as a closed system. Being an industrial size, these units can not be a portable systems and thus difficult to take them to the fields where the plant material is available in remote areas and distilling the fresh raw material is not possible in such a system which is one of the major parameter in affecting the quality of an essential oil. Being commercial scale units they require more man power, operational costs etc., and the marginal farmers can not afford to purchase these industrial scale distillation units.

Page 3, paragraph beginning at line 29:

The major drawbacks of the unit are that it cannot ~~distil~~ distill the plant material neither by Water distillation nor by Water and Steam distillation. Some parts of the aromatic herbs are preferably distilled by Water distillation method to obtain better recoveries and quality. Also these units can not ~~distil~~ distill the plant material neither at

reduced pressure nor at higher pressure since the system is opened to the atmospheric pressure and can not operated as a closed system. Being an industrial size these units cannot be a portable, and thus difficult to take them to the fields where the plant material is available in remote areas and distilling the fresh raw material is not possible in such a system which is one of the major parameter in affecting the consistency in the quality of an essential oil. Being commercial scale units they require more man power, operational costs etc., and the marginal farmer cannot afford to purchase these industrial scale distillation units.

Page 4, paragraph beginning at line 10:

Thus, apparatus, industrial scale units and the process mentioned above has one or the other major drawbacks like inferior oil quality, low oil recovery, low batch capacity, lack of water distillation, steam distillation and water and steam distillation facility, restricted mode of heating, unable to distil distill the plant material under vacuum and at higher pressures, difficulty in charging and discharging of plant materials because of narrow mouth and requires more attention during processing, more capital investment, operational cost.

Page 6, line 5, paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 18:

Accordingly, the present invention provides a simple, convenient, portable mini-distillation apparatus as shown in fig 2 of the accompanying drawings, for the production of essential oils and hydrosols, which comprises one or more vessel(s) (1) capable of being heated either internally/externally or both, the inside bottom of the said vessel(s) being provided with a threaded rod (6) fixed concentrically in such a manner so as to allow vertical movement of a sieved false bottom (5), one or more steam spurger(s) (24) being provided between the vessel bottom (2) and the said movable false bottom (5, 7), the said vessel(s) being provided with lids(s) (3) having one or more safety valve(s) (21), said lid(s) being attached with the vessel by means of removable fixing means, the lid(s) are also provided with parameter gauges (20) such as pressure, vacuum, temperature gauges and a vapor outlet(s) (9), the said vapor outlet(s) being connected by known means to the inlet of one or more vertical cohabitation column(s) (8), the outlet(s) of the said cohabitation column(s) being fixed by known means to the

inlet (10) of a condenser (11) provided with closeable vent (15), the outlet (12) of the said condenser being detachably connected by one or more connecting means (14) to a vertical receiver-cum-separator column (13) having a valve (18) at its lower end, which controls an outlet (23), the bottom and middle of the said receiver-cum-separator column being provided with a plurality of valves (17, 19) which control flow of fluids in one or more recycling means (16) connected to the upper portion of the said cohabitation column(s).

Page 6, paragraph beginning at line 21:

In still another embodiment of the invention, the false bottom (5) is so adjusted to accommodate the plant material, which is very less to ~~distil~~ distill in a given capacity of distillation unit preferably at least one fifth of the holding capacity of the unit to minimize or no loss of essential oil.

Page 7, paragraph beginning at line 8:

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the receiver-cum-separator is made up of glass, coated with transparent plastic or covered with an aluminum casing.

Page 7, paragraph beginning at line 11:

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the vertical receiver-cum-separator column is graduated.